

We Claim:

1. A holding device for moving a slider of a thermoplastic bag in a first direction, comprising:

- 5 a base surface; and
 a pair of holding members extending from the base surface and insertable over a slider in a first direction and facilitating movement of the slider in a second direction.

10 2. The holding device of claim 1, wherein at least one of the holding members or the base surface includes a magnet on an outer surface thereof.

 3. The holding device of claim 1, wherein at least one of the holding members or the base surface includes a hook and loop fastener on an outer surface thereof.

15 4. The holding device of claim 1, wherein at least one of the holding members or the base surface includes double-sided adhesive tape on an outer surface thereof.

 5. The holding device of claim 1, wherein the holding members are spread apart to engage the slider.

20 6. The holding device of claim 5, wherein the holding members are spread apart using an external biasing device.

 7. The holding device of claim 6, wherein the external biasing device is a spring.

 8. The holding device of claim 5, wherein the holding members are spread apart manually.

30 9. The holding device of claim 8, wherein a notch in at least one of the holding members aids a user in spreading apart the holding members manually.

10. The holding device of claim 8, wherein a release on at least one of the holding members aids a user in spreading apart the holding members manually.

5 11. The holding device of claim 1, wherein the holding device is in the form of a child's toy.

12. The holding device of claim 1, wherein the holding device has a holiday theme.

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13. The holding device of claim 1, wherein the holding device has a sports theme.

14. The holding device of claim 1, wherein the first direction is transverse to the second direction.

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15. The holding device of claim 1, wherein the first direction is parallel to the second direction.

16. A holding device for a slider of a thermoplastic bag comprising:
a base surface;
a pair of holding members extending from the base surface;
wherein the holding members are insertable over the slider in a first direction; and
5 wherein forces applied to the holding device are transmitted to the slider to move
the slider in a second direction.

17. The holding device of claim 16, wherein at least one of the holding
members or the base surface includes a magnet on an outer surface thereof.

18. The holding device of claim 16, wherein at least one of the holding
members or the base surface includes a hook and loop fastener on an outer surface thereof.

19. The holding device of claim 16, wherein at least one of the holding
15 members or the base surface includes double-sided adhesive tape on an outer surface
thereof.

20. The holding device of claim 16, wherein the holding members are spread
apart to engage the slider.

21. The holding device of claim 20, wherein the holding members are spread
apart using an external biasing device.

22. The holding device of claim 21, wherein the external biasing device is a
25 spring.

23. The holding device of claim 20, wherein the holding members are spread
apart manually.

24. The holding device of claim 23, wherein a notch in at least one of the
30 holding members aids a user in spreading apart the holding members manually.

25. The holding device of claim 23, wherein a release on at least one of the holding members aids a user in spreading apart the holding members manually.

5 26. The holding device of claim 16, wherein the holding device is in the form of a child's toy.

27. The holding device of claim 16, wherein the holding device has a holiday theme.

10 28. The holding device of claim 16, wherein the holding device has a sports theme.

15 29. The holding device of claim 16, wherein the holding device further includes a handle attached to the holding members.

30. The holding device of claim 29, wherein the handle pivots about a pivot point.

20 31. The holding device of claim 29, wherein the handle includes an ornament at a top portion thereof.

32. The holding device of claim 16, wherein the first direction is transverse to the second direction.

25 33. The holding device of claim 16, wherein the first direction is parallel to the second direction.

34. A method for moving a slider closure of a thermoplastic bag, the method comprising the steps of:

contacting the slider with a holding device;
gripping the holding device and bag; and
moving the holding device relative to the bag.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the contacting step includes the step of mounting the holding device on the slider.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein the holding device includes a base surface and a pair of holding members extending from the base surface.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the step of mounting the holding device includes spreading the holding members apart to engage the slider.

38. The method of claim 36, wherein the step of mounting the holding device includes spreading the holding members apart using an external biasing device.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein the external biasing device is a spring.

40. The method of claim 36, wherein the step of mounting the holding device includes spreading the holding members apart manually.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein an undercut portion in at least one of the holding members aids a user in spreading apart the holding members manually.

42. The method of claim 40, wherein a release on at least one of the holding members aids a user in spreading apart the holding members manually.

43. The method of claim 34, wherein the step of moving at least one of the holding device and bag includes pulling a handle attached to the holding device.

44. The method of claim 43, wherein the handle swivels about a pivot point.

5 45. The method of claim 43, wherein the handle includes an ornament at a top
portion thereof.

46. A holding device for a slider of a thermoplastic bag,
comprising;
a base surface;
a pair of holding members extending from the base surface; and
5 means for inserting the holding members over the slider in a first direction; and
wherein the holding members facilitate movement of the slider in a second
direction.

47. The holding device of claim 46, wherein at least one of the holding
10 members or the base surface includes a magnet on an outer surface thereof.

48. The holding device of claim 46, wherein at least one of the holding
members or the base surface includes a hook and loop fastener on an outer surface thereof.

49. The holding device of claim 46, wherein at least one of the holding
15 members or the base surface includes double-sided adhesive tape on an outer surface
thereof.

50. The holding device of claim 46, wherein the means for inserting the
20 holding members over the slider include an external biasing device.

51. The holding device of claim 50, wherein the external biasing device is a
spring.

52. The holding device of claim 46, wherein the means for inserting the
25 holding members over the slider include a notch in at least one of the holding members.

53. The holding device of claim 46, wherein the means for inserting the
holding members over the slider include a release on at least one of the holding members.

54. The holding device of claim 46, wherein the holding device is in the form of a child's toy.

5 55. The holding device of claim 46, wherein the holding device has a holiday theme.

56. The holding device of claim 46, wherein the holding device has a sports theme.

10 57. The holding device of claim 46, wherein the holding device further includes a handle attached to the holding members.

15 58. The holding device of claim 57, wherein the handle pivots about a pivot point.

59. The holding device of claim 57, wherein the handle includes an ornament at a top portion thereof.

20 60. The holding device of claim 46, wherein the first direction is transverse to the second direction.

61. The holding device of claim 46, wherein the first direction is parallel to the second direction.